

Hel. My dutie then shall pay me for my paines :
I will no more enforce mine office on you ,
Humbly intreating from your royall thoughts,
A modest one to beare me backe againe.
King. I cannot giue thee lesse to be cal'd gratefull:
Thou thoughtst to helpe me, and such thanks I giue,
As one neere death to those that wish him liue:
But what at full I know, thou knowst no part,
I knowing all my perill, thou no Art.
Hel. What I can doe, can doe no hurt to try,
Since you set vp your rest 'gainst remedie:
He that of greatest workes is finisher,
Oft does them by the weakest minister:
So holy Writ, in babes hath iudgement showne,
When Iudges haue bin babes; great fouds haue flowne
From simple sources: and great Seas haue dried
When Miracles haue by the greatst beene denied.
Oft expectation failes, and most oft there
Where most it promises: and oft it hits,
Where hope is coldest, and despaire most shifts.
King. I must not heare thee, fare thee wel kind maide,
Thy paines not vs'd, must by thy selfe be paid,
Proffers not tooke, reape thanks for their reward.
Hel. Inspired Merit so by breath is bard,
It is not so with him that all things knowes
As 'tis with vs, that square our guesse by shoues:
But most it is presumption in vs, when
The help of heauen we count the act of men.
Deare sir, to my endeauors giue consent,
Of heauen, not me, make an experiment.
I am not an Imposture, that proclaime
My selfe against the leuill of mine ayme,
But know I thinke, and thinke I know most sure,
My Art is not past power, nor you past cure.
King. Art thou so confident? Within what space
Hopt thou my cure?
Hel. The greatest grace lending grace,
Ere twice the horses of the sunne shall bring
Their fiery torcher his diurnall ring,
Ere twice in murke and occidentall dampe
Moist *Hesperus* hath quenched her sleepey Lampe:
Or foure and twenty times the Pylots glasse
Hath told the theeuish minutes, how they passe:
What is infirme, from your sound parts shall flie,
Health shall liue free, and sicknesse freely dye.
King. Vpon thy certainty and confidence,
What dar'st thou venter?
Hel. Taxe of impudence,
A strumpets boldnesse, a divulged shame
Traduc'd by odious ballads: my maidens name
Scard otherwise, ne worse of worst extended
With vildest torture, let my life be ended.
King. Methinks in thee some blessed spirit doth speak
His powerfull sound, within an organ weake:
And what impossibility would slay
In common sence, sence saues another way:
Thy life is deere, for all that life can rate
Worth name of life, in thee hath estimate:
Youth, beauty, wisdom, courage, all
That happines and prime, can happy call:
Thou this to hazard, needs must intimate
Skill infinite, or monstrous desperate,
Sweet praetiser, thy Physicke I will try,
That ministers thine owne death if I die.
Hel. If I breake time, or flinch in property
Of what I spoke, vnpartied let me die,

And well deseru'd: not helping, death's my fee,
But if I helpe, what doe you promise me.
King. Make thy demand.
Hel. But will you make it euen?
King. I by my Scepter, and my hopes of helpe.
Hel. Then shalt thou giue me with thy kingly hand
What husband in thy power I will command:
Exempted be from me the arrogance
To choose from forth the royall bloud of France,
My low and humble name to propagate
With any branch or image of thy state:
But such a one thy vassall, whom I know
Is free for me to aske, thee to bestow.
King. Heere is my hand, the premises obseru'd,
Thy will by my performance shall be seru'd:
So make the choice of thy owne time, for I
Thy resolu'd Patient, on thee still relye:
More should I question thee, and more I must,
Though more to know, could not be more to trust:
From whence thou cam'st, how tended on, but rest
Vnquestion'd welcome, and vndoubted blest.
Giue me some helpe heere ho, if thou proceed,
As high as word, my deed shall match thy deed.

Floris. *Exit.*

Enter Countesse and Clowne.

Lady. Come on sir, I shall now put you to the height
of your breeding.
Clowne. I will shew my selfe highly fed, and lowly
taught, I know my businesse is but to the Court.
Lady. To the Court, why what place make you spe-
ciall, when you put off that with such contempt, but to
the Court?
Clowne. Truly Madam, if God haue lent a man any man-
ners, hee may easilie put it off at Court: hee that cannot
make a legge, put off's cap, kisse his hand, and say no-
thing, has neither legge, hands, lippe, nor cap; and in-
deed such a fellow, to say precisely, were not for the
Court, but for me, I haue an answer will serue all men.
Lady. Marry that's a bountifull answer that fits all
questions.
Clowne. It is like a Barbers chaire that fits all buttockes,
the pin buttocke, the quatch buttocke, the brawn but-
tocke, or any buttocke.
Lady. Will your answer serue fit to all questions?
Clowne. As fit as ten groats is for the hand of an Attur-
ney, as your French Crowne for your taffety punke, as
Tibs rush for *Toms* fore-finger, as a pancake for *Shrou-*
tuesday, a Morris for May-day, as the naile to his hole,
the Cuckold to his home, as a scolding queane to a
wrangling knaue, as the Nuns lip to the Friers mouth,
nay as the pudding to his skin.
Lady. Haue you, I say, an answer of such fitnessse for
all questions?
Clowne. From below your Duke, to beneath your Con-
stable, it will fit any question.
Lady. It must be an answer of most monstrous size,
that must fit all demands.
Clowne. But a trifle neither in good faith, if the learned
should speake truth of it: heere it is, and all that belongs
to't. Aske mee if I am a Courtier, it shall doe you no
harme to learne.
Lady. To be young againe if we could: I will bee a
foole in question, hoping to bee the wiser by your an-
swer.

Lady.

La. I pray you sir, are you a Courtier?
Clowne. O Lord sir there's a simple putting off: more,
more, a hundred of them.
La. Sir I am a poore freind of yours, that loues you.
Clowne. O Lord sir, thicke, thicke, spare not me.
La. I thinke sir, you can eate none of this homely
meate.
Clowne. O Lord sir; nay put me too't, I warrant you.
La. You were lately whipe sir as I thinke.
Clowne. O Lord sir, spare not me.
La. Doe you crie O Lord sir at your whipping, and
spare not me? Indeed your O Lord sir, is very seque-
nt to your whipping: you would answer very well to a
whipping if you were but bound too't.
Clowne. I nere had worse lucke in my life in my O Lord
sir: I see things may serue long, but not serue euer.
La. I play the noble huswife with the time, to enter-
taine it so merrily with a foole.
Clowne. O Lord sir, why there't serues well agen.
La. And end sir to your businesse: giue *Hellen* this,
And vrge her to a present answer backe,
Commend me to my kinsmen, and my sonne,
This is not much.
Clowne. Not much commendation to them.
La. Not much imployment for you, you vnder-
stand me.
Clowne. Most fruitfully, I am there, before my legges.
La. Ha! you agen.

Enter Count, Lafew, and Parolles.

Ol. Laf. They say miracles are past, and we haue our
Philosophicall persons, to make moderne and familiar
things supernaturall and causelesse. Hence is it, that we
make trifles of terrors, enscorning our selues into seem-
ing knowledge, when we should submit our selues to
an vknowne feare.
Par. Why 'tis the rarest argument of wonder, that
hath shot out in our latter times.
Ref. And so 'tis.
Ol. Laf. To be relinquisht of the Artists.
Par. So I say both of *Galen* and *Paracelsus*.
Ol. Laf. Of all the learned and authentick fellows.
Par. Right so I say.
Ol. Laf. That gaue him out incurable.
Par. Why there 'tis, so say I too.
Ol. Laf. Not to be help'd.
Par. Right, as 'twere a man assur'd of a—
Ol. Laf. Vncertaine life, and sure death.
Par. Iust, you say well: so would I haue said,
Ol. Laf. I may truly say, it is a noueltie to the world.
Par. It is indeede if you will haue it in shewing, you
shall reade it in what do ye call there.
Ol. Laf. A shewing of a heauenly effect in an earth-
ly Actor.
Par. That's sir, I would haue said, the verie same.
Ol. Laf. Why your Dolphin is not lustier: fore mee
I speake in respect—
Par. Nay 'tis strange, 'tis very strange, that is the
breefe and the tedious of it, and he's of a most facineri-
ous spirit, that will not acknowledge it to be the—
Ol. Laf. Very hand of heauen.
Par. I, so I say.
Ol. Laf. In a most weake—
Par. And debile minister great power, great tran-
cendence, which should indeede giue vs a further vse to

be made, then alone the recou'r
Ol. Laf. Generally thankfu

Enter King, Hellen, and a
Par. I would haue said it, yo
the King.

Ol. Laf. Lustique, as the Du
maide the Better whilst I haue
he's able to leade her a Carranto
Par. Mor du vinager, is not
Ol. Laf. Fore God I thinke fo
King. Goe call before mee al
Sit my preseruer by thy patients
And with this healthfull hand w
Thou hast repeal'd, a second tin
The confirmation of my promis
Which but attends thy naming.

Enter 3 or 4 L
Faire Maide send forth thine cy
Of Noble Batchellors, stand at
Ore whom both Soueraigne po
I haue to vse; thy franke electio
Thou hast power to choose, and
Hel. To each of you, one fai
Fall when loue please, marry to
Ol. Laf. I'de giue bay curta
My mouth no more were broke
And writ as little beard.
King. Peruse them well:
Not one of those, but had a No

Hel. Gentlemen, heauen ha
the king to health.
All. We vnderstand it, and th
Hel. I am a simple Maide, and
That I protest, I simply am a Ma
Please it your Maiestie, I haue d
The blushes in my cheekes thus
We blush that thou shouldst ch
Let the white death sit on thy cl
Wee'l nere come there againe.
King. Make choise and see
Who shuns thy loue, shuns all
Hel. Now *Dian* from thy A
And to imperiall loue, that Go
Do my highes streame: Sir, wil
1. *Lo.* And grant it.
Hel. Thankes sir, all the rest
Ol. Laf. I had rather be in th
Ames-ace for my life.
Hel. The honor sir that flar
Before I speake too threateningl
Loue make your fortunes twent
Her that so wishes, and her hu
2. *Lo.* No better if you plea
Hel. My wish receiue,
Which great loue grant, and fo
Ol. Laf. Do all they denie h
of mine, I'de haue them whip'd
to'th Turke to make Eunuches
Hel. Be not afraid that I you
Ile neuer do you wrong for you
Blessing vpon your vovves, and
Finde fairer fortune, if you euer
Ol. Laf. These boyes are bo